

# **CATS Vehicle Procurement Report**

**April 3, 2007**



# Summary

The City of Anderson Transportation System (CATS) is currently trying to replace an aging transit vehicle fleet. CATS and the Madison County Council of Governments (MCCOG) are working together to secure funding as well as carry out the necessary processes to purchase new vehicles. CATS intends to purchase 7 new transit vehicles for regular use among the six bus routes, 4 paratransit vehicles for Nifty Lift specialized service, and 1 van for supervisory use. New buses will substantially benefit both CATS and its riders.

Current transit vehicles have aged well beyond their intended useful life. They are in poor shape and require extensive maintenance to keep them in running condition; however this will not continue to keep them running and there is a serious need for a long term solution. Simply put, they must be replaced as soon as possible. New buses will not only ease maintenance troubles, but will provide considerable comforts to passengers including air conditioning and a smoother, quieter ride. They will also enhance the image of CATS and have positive effects on ridership.

This report includes details (including approximated costs) concerning the three types of vehicles CATS is considering purchasing as well as explain the funding that will be used to pay for the vehicles. The 7 transit vehicles have yet to go through the required Request for Proposals (RFP) process, so the exact model, supplier, and manufacturer of the buses has not yet been selected. The paratransit vehicles and supervisor van have already been through the state Quantity Purchase Agreement (QPA) process and exact models have been selected. At the end of the report is a projected timeline for the transit vehicle procurement process.

## New Vehicles

### 7 Transit Vehicles

For regular fixed-route service, CATS intends to purchase 7 new transit vehicles. Several possible options have been identified, and all are of the style shown in the picture to the right.



Example Transit Vehicle

The new vehicles will substantially increase passenger comfort. Comfortable seating, large windows, wide aisles, smooth and quiet rides, and air conditioning are features of the possible choices. The new transit vehicles will also be outfitted with bike racks. The exact model, supplier, and manufacturer will be selected through the appropriate RFP process.

CATS intends to equip the new transit vehicles with the latest modern transit technology. This includes new,

modern fare collection devices, AVL (automatic vehicle locator) tracking technology, security cameras, and L.E.D. route displays. This technology greatly reduces constraints on staff to collect ridership data, improves communication, provides for more accurate fare collection, and alleviates security concerns.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires CATS to collect detailed ridership statistics. The ease of collection and the accuracy of these statistics will be greatly improved with the new technology. The AVL system will allow the CATS staff to track vehicles in real time on their computers. In addition, this system will provide the option for CATS to install arrival time displays at selected bus stops in the future.

Each bus will be outfitted with four cameras, which will enhance safety and security on the buses. All of this technology will allow drivers to concentrate more on driving the vehicles, which improves passenger safety, and will significantly increase efficiency for CATS administrative staff.

Projected cost: \$150,000 per vehicle for 7 vehicles, total \$1,050,000

## 4 Paratransit Vehicles

CATS is planning to purchase four paratransit vehicles built by StarTrans for the Nifty Lift service. The model selected is the Candidate Series which has the option of either a Chevy or Ford engine, and the ultimate decision hinges on availability. These vehicles will replace the current, aging Nifty Lift vehicles. Similar to the transit vehicles, they will enhance passenger comforts with a smoother, quieter ride.



Example: Candidate Series Chevy Model

Projected cost: \$58,000 per vehicle for 4 vehicles, total \$232,000.

Manufacturer: StarTrans Bus, a division of Supreme Corp, located in Goshen, IN



Example: Candidate Series Ford Model

Supplier: Midwest Transit, located in Whitestown, IN

# 1 Supervisor Van

CATS is also planning to purchase a new supervisor van in addition to the transit and paratransit vehicles. The model selected is a Chevy Uplander, and will be modified so that it is capable of accommodating wheelchairs. The van will be used for supervisory road support for CATS as well as transporting clients in emergency situations (for example a client missed their scheduled service) or in the case of a vehicle breakdown.

Projected cost: \$32,000

Manufacturer: Chevy



2007 Chevy Uplander

Supplier: Midwest Transit, located in Whitestown, IN

## Funding

CATS' budgeting is constrained for new capital expenditures, so the funding for the new vehicles is coming from several sources. Federal grants are being used for the majority of the funds needed. The funding for each vehicle type is explained here:

## 7 Transit Vehicles

**Total = \$1,050,000**

**CMAQ Grant = 80% (\$840,000)**

**Local Match = 20% (\$210,000)**

### Explanation

A CMAQ grant is for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality improvement. The purchase of new transit vehicles is an allowed use of funds under this program, as new buses have considerably cleaner emissions and therefore have a positive impact on air quality.

The Anderson Metropolitan Planning Area is an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) non-attainment zone concerning air quality, and therefore has CMAQ funds set aside exclusively for its use. This is not a competitive grant, but it must be approved by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) as well as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). MCCOG has submitted an application on behalf of CATS, and the ultimate decision will be made by the first week of May, 2007. Both CATS and MCCOG fully expect a positive result.

The City of Anderson is providing the local match money for the project. In addition to the local match, the city must also pay the entire up front cost of the buses. The CMAQ grant money will in turn reimburse the city for 80% of the costs. The city is currently working on the feasibility of putting this funding together, as the buses are an imminent need. One additional option for consideration (due to the imminent need for new vehicles) is that CATS could lease the 7 transit vehicles until the CMAQ grant funds are received.

## **Paratransit Vehicles and Supervisor Van**

**Total = \$264,000 (\$232,000 + \$32,000)**

**FTA 5307 Funds Grant = 80% (\$211,200)**

**Local Match = 20% (\$52,800)**

### **Explanation**

The FTA has agreed to fund the purchase of the new paratransit vehicles and the supervisor van with a FTA 5307 funds grant. This grant will pay for 80% of the cost, with a 20% local match to be paid by the City of Anderson.

## **Tentative Schedule**

### **CMAQ funding approval**

Thursday, March 12, 2007 – CMAQ grant submitted for 7 new transit vehicles not to exceed \$150,000/vehicle

Thursday, April 26, 2007 – CMAQ decision from INDOT, application will be forwarded to the FHWA

Week of May 1-8, 2007 – Ultimate decision on CMAQ grant made by the FHWA

Wednesday, May 30, 2007 – (estimated) end of a 30 day period for INDOT/FHWA to allocate funds to FTA for bus purchase

## **Vehicle Procurement Process**

Sunday, April 8, 2007 – First public notice in newspaper for vehicle procurement public meeting

Monday, April 16, 2007 – CATS and MCCOG post report on websites (min. 72 hours before public meeting)

Thursday, April 19, 2007 – Public Meetings for CATS transit vehicle procurement

Monday, April 23, 2007 – request City Board of Works to establish a bid opening date for vehicle procurement

Sunday, April 29, 2007 – publish 1st RFP in newspaper for buses

Sunday, May 6, 2007 – publish 2nd RFP in newspaper for buses

Monday, May 28, 2007 – open submitted bids for vehicle procurement at City Board of Works meeting

Monday, June 11, 2007 – recommend award of bid to City Board of Works

**Late September, 2007 – Delivery of new vehicles to CATS**

# Website Links

City of Anderson Transportation System

<http://www.cityofanderson.com/cats/>

Madison County Council of Governments

<http://www.mccog.net/>

StarTrans Bus

<http://www.startransbus.com/>

Midwest Transit

<http://www.midwesttransit.com/>

Indiana Department of Transportation

<http://www.in.gov/dot/>

Federal Highway Administration

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/>

Federal Transit Administration

<http://www.fta.dot.gov/>

